



BIRCH AQUARIUM EDUCATION PROGRAMS

INCREASING ACCESS TO OCEAN SCIENCE

Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography is a global leader in ocean education, climate communication, conservation and public engagement. With its unique connection to more than 1,000 scientists conducting active research in all oceans, Birch Aquarium is uniquely positioned to bring public and K-12 audiences right up to the exciting frontier where new knowledge is generated.

Connecting understanding to protecting our ocean planet, Birch Aquarium brings students closer to the wonders of our ocean — both at the aquarium facilities and in the community on local San Diego beaches and bays. Interactive labs and week-long summer camps help learners understand connections between daily life and our oceans. With educational activities that engage students in STEM programming, these programs inspire learning in a tangible, impactful way.

Philanthropy is critical to offer opportunities for STEM education to all students with a special focus on disinvested communities. Birch Aquarium’s educational offerings — including scholarships to students from Title 1 schools who are otherwise unable to access the aquarium — create equitable pathways to careers in STEM for future scientific leaders. Your support gives students the opportunity to participate in experiential ocean science and provide meaningful exposure to the world of scientific inquiry. By supporting scholarships at Birch Aquarium, you can help us reach more students in Southern California and beyond who are eager to learn about climate science and dive into ways they can actively protect our oceans.

At Birch Aquarium, we believe that embracing climate science education, encouraging play and integrating research-focused exhibits brings our visitors to the precipice of discovery. As the public exploration center for Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego, we are empowered by generosity to inspire curiosity, collaboration, understanding and action to protect our ocean planet

40,000

Students are anticipated to visit the Birch Aquarium each year.

MORE THAN 50%

of our student population receives financial support.

CLIMATE SCIENCE

is at the heart of our educational programming. With hands-on learning experiences, students engage directly with climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation.





DISCOVERY LABS

These interactive 45- to 60-minute programs encourage students to think critically while exploring the ocean and the organisms that live there. Discovery Labs take inspiration from current areas of research and practice demonstrated at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, connecting students with authentic scientific experiences. All school programs are aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards to support classroom learning.

SUMMER CAMPS

Our week-long camps allow children ages 4 to 13 to explore underwater worlds and meet ocean creatures in a fun and safe environment. Campers play games, create fun crafts, engage in science activities, and get up close with our aquarium animals. Summer camps are hosted at Birch Aquarium, throughout the Scripps Institution of Oceanography campus, and along our local San Diego beaches, providing the opportunity for students to connect their aquarium experience with the ocean.

SEAPORT CLIMATE SCIENCE PILOT PROGRAM

We are currently piloting a new program to bring seventh grade students to the waterfront and engage them in robust climate science activities along the San Diego Bay. Students will explore relevant and engaging phenomena on boats and along the shoreline. The program is being developed in collaboration with San Diego Unified School District and aims to continue to provide programming to students in support of a STEM pipeline that reaches to the undergraduate experience at UC San Diego.

AQUARIUM EXPRESS OUTREACH

Through the generosity of donors, our Birch Aquarium educators travel directly to schools with financial need to allow students to experience Next Generation Science Standard-aligned curriculum in the comfort of their own classrooms. Programs such as "Diving into DNA" introduce eighth grade students to gel electrophoresis, while "Deep Sea Debris" helps high schoolers discover how human activity is impacting deep sea ecosystems. Students practice collecting data and utilize their findings firsthand to understand how aquarists and scientists work together and impact our ocean planet at all levels.

There are numerous ways to play a part in supporting educational programming at Birch Aquarium. From supporting scholarships for summer camp participants to helping us fund a paid internship experience, **you can expand the future of scientific discovery experiences for learners of all ages.**

Help us make these educational experiences accessible for all. Community philanthropy can support inclusive learning, promote discovery and empower students as they explore their ocean planet.

[Learn more at aquarium.ucsd.edu.](https://aquarium.ucsd.edu)

For more information on supporting Birch Aquarium, please contact:

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